Passport offices in Andhra Pradesh

443. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of passport offices in the State of Andhra Pradesh, circle wise;

(b) the average number of passport applications that each circle receive; yearly;

(c) what is the estimated time for issue of a passport;

(d) the number of applications lying pending in Andhra Pradesh for more than three months and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is a fact that the pendency is mainly due to short supply of blanket passport booklets by the Indian Security Press; and

(f) if so, the specific measures taken to reduce the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) There are two passport offices in Andhra Pradesh, *viz.* Hyderabad and Visakapatnam. The office at Hyderabad deals with the entire State except West Godavari, East Godavarai, Srikakulam and Vizianagaram region which are dealt with by Passport Office, Visakapatnam.

(b) The average number of applications received annually in Hyderabad is 3,25,000, while in Visakapatnam it is 65,000.

(c) The estimated time for issue of passport ranges between 30—35 days in Hyderabad and 60—65 days in Visakapatnam.

(d) The number of passport applications pending for more than three months is NIL in Hyderabad and 1426 in Visakhapatnam. Short supply of passport booklets, shortage of manpower and increase in number of passport applications are the main reasons for pendency.

(e) Short supply of blank passport booklets by the Indian Security Printing Press is one of the reasons.

(f) We have been continually taking up the matter with Indian Security Printing Press, Nasik for augmenting the supply of blank passport booklets. The supply has improved now.